



Transfer of climate knowledge via a regional climate-change management body to support vulnerability, impact assessments and adaptation measures

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Abstract:

We provide an overview of how climate-change-science knowledge transfer is achieved at Ouranos in support of vulnerability and impact assessments and adaptation (V&I&A) activities. Ouranos is a Canadian consortium concerned with regional climatology and adaptation to climate change, launched in 2002 by the Government of Quebec, Hydro-Quebec and the Meteorological Service of Canada to coordinate climate-change research in Quebec. Focusing on Ouranos' ongoing V&I&A projects in coastal regions, we describe the current knowledge-transfer environment. We also discuss how climate indices and indicators of vulnerability-which are developed by Ouranos following a 'pressure-state-response' (PSR) framework-form useful knowledge-transfer tools. Two specific case studies exemplify the development of (1) a set of temperature-trend indices for southern Quebec and (2) climate-social indicators for the assessment of risks to public health due to extremely high temperature events. Case Study (1) illustrates how a systematic analysis of climate variability and relevant indices of extremes can be useful for decision makers at regional scales (southern Quebec). Case Study (2) examines the potential, and feasibility, of using a risk-assessment framework for regional climate-change studies that focus on impacts and adaptation.

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Resource Description

Climate Scenario :

specification of climate scenario (set of assumptions about future states related to climate)

Special Report on Emissions Scenarios (SRES), Other Climate Scenario

Special Report on Emissions Scenarios (SRES) Scenario: SRES A2

Other Climate Scenario: IS92a (IPCC)

Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change;
 surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience:

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

audience to whom the resource is directed

Policymaker, Researcher

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Ecosystem Changes, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Quality, Food/Water Security, Glacier/Snow Melt, Precipitation, Temperature

Extreme Weather Event: Drought, Landslides

Food/Water Quality: Other Water Quality Issue

Water Quality (other): Ocean salinity

Temperature: Extreme Heat, Fluctuations

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Arctic, Ocean/Coastal

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Non-U.S. North America

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

General Health Impact

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Model/Methodology:

type of model used or methodology development is a focus of resource

Exposure Change Prediction, Methodology

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern:

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Elderly, Low Socioeconomic Status

Other Vulnerable Population: People with low education; Socially isolated

Resource Type:

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format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article, Research Article

Timescale:

time period studied

Long-Term (>50 years)

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content